

C. Remarks

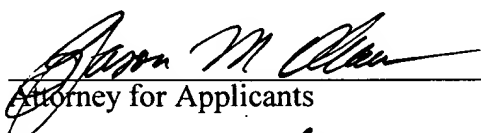
The claims are 147, 152-157, 179 and 180, with claim 147 being the sole independent claim.¹ Claim 147 has been amended to specify that the carbon fiber has a specific area of at least 10 m²/g. This amendment is clearly supported by Example 16. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are patentable at least for the reasons of record. Wherefore, expedient allowance of the claims and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants also respectfully request that the Examiner initial and return PTO-1449 forms, which were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 22, 2001, to indicate that the documents cited therein have been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 48,512

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 418754v1

^{1/}Applicants note that the present claims reflect the changes made via Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312, which was filed January 14, 2004 and was resubmitted on February 25, 2004.